

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 have been examined. Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 3-24 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has objected to the specification due to a minor informality. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the specification in a manner believed to overcome the objection.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,969,736 to Field et al. ("Field")

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites at least one pressure sensor for measuring atmospheric pressure and inner pressure of a liquid ejecting head, and a controller for setting a pressure difference between the atmospheric pressure and the inner pressure at a predetermined value by adjustment.

The Examiner maintains that Field discloses the above features. In particular, the Examiner maintains that sensor 56 discloses the claimed pressure sensor and control circuit 66 discloses the claimed controller. However, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. For

example, Field discloses that the sensor 56 detects ink pressure in an ink supply channel, rather than in a liquid ejecting head, as recited in claim 1 (See, for example, col. 13, lines 4-7; col. 15, lines 46-67 and col. 16, lines 28-31). Further, the control circuit 66 of Field is disclosed as controlling the ink supply to the valve 54 (col. 16, lines 19-20). Accordingly, Applicant submits that the sensor 56 of Field does not measure the atmospheric pressure directly, but only the ink pressure in the ink supply channel.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that Field fails to teach or suggest each and every feature recited in claim 1, and therefore, respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

B. Claim 2

Since claim 2 is dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

As set forth above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 3-24 contain allowable subject matter.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/628,401

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

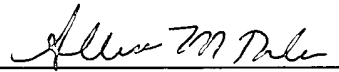
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